

- 32 -

CLAIMS:

1. An ink composition for printing on a ceramic substrate, to be fused to the substrate upon firing, the ink characterized by:
 - (a) having viscosity, below 20cps at jetting temperature;
 - 5 (b) becoming an integral part of the substrate upon exposure to temperatures above 500°C;the ink composition comprising:
 - 1) a vehicle being a liquid at room temperature;
 - 2) sub-micron particles of binding composition.
- 10 2. The ink composition according to claim 1 the ink characterized by:
 - (a) having viscosity, below 20cps at jetting temperature;
 - (b) maintaining optical properties after exposure to temperatures above 500°C;
 - (c) becoming an integral part of the substrate upon exposure to
 - 15 temperatures above 500°C;the ink composition comprising:
 - 1) particles of heat resistant inorganic pigment having an average size of less than 1.2 microns;
 - 2) a vehicle being a liquid at room temperature;
 - 20 3) sub-micron particles of binding composition.
3. The ink composition of claim 2 wherein the heat resistant inorganic pigments are metal oxides.
4. The ink composition of claim 2, wherein the particles of inorganic pigment have an average size less than 0.9 microns.
- 25 5. The ink composition of claim 4, wherein the average size of the particles of the inorganic pigment is less than 0.7 microns.
6. The ink composition of claim 5, wherein the average size of the particles of the inorganic pigment is less than 0.55 microns

- 33 -

7. The ink composition of claim 2 wherein the inorganic pigments are selected from: chromium oxide, copper oxide, titanium oxide, $\text{Cu-Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ oxides; titanium dioxide, iron oxide, Nickel antimony titanium yellow rutile, Cobalt aluminium blue spinel; and combinations of two or more of the above.
- 5 8. The ink composition of claim 1 or 2 wherein the liquid vehicle is at least one organic solvent.
9. The ink composition according to claim 8 wherein the at least one organic solvent is selected from PM (propylene glycol mono methyl ether), DPM (dipropylene glycol mono methyl ether), TPM (tripropylene glycol mono methyl ether), PnB (propylene glycol mono n-butyl ether), DPnB (dipropylene glycol mono butyl ether), TPnB (tripropylene glycol mono n-butyl ether), PnP (propylene glycol mono propyl ether), DPnP (dipropylene glycol mono propyl ether), TPnB-H (propylene glycol butyl ether), PMA (propylene glycol mono methyl ether acetate), Dowanol DB (Diethylene glycol mono butyl ether) or
10 ether), PnB (propylene glycol mono n-butyl ether), DPnB (dipropylene glycol mono butyl ether), TPnB (tripropylene glycol mono n-butyl ether), PnP (propylene glycol mono propyl ether), DPnP (dipropylene glycol mono propyl ether), TPnB-H (propylene glycol butyl ether), PMA (propylene glycol mono methyl ether acetate), Dowanol DB (Diethylene glycol mono butyl ether) or
15 other ethylene or propylene glycol ethers ;or a combination of two or more f the above .
10. The ink composition of claim 8 or 9 wherein the substrate is a glass substrate and the binding composition are sub-micron particles of glass frit.
11. The ink composition of claim 10 wherein the glass frit is composed of
20 SiO_2 , Bi_2O_3 , and B_2O_3 .
12. The ink composition of claim 11 wherein the w/w of the SiO_2 in the glass frit is 50-70%.
13. The ink composition of claim 11 wherein the w/w of the Bi_2O_3 in the glass frit is 10-20%.
- 25 14. The ink composition of claim 11 wherein the w/w of the B_2O_3 in the glass frit is 3-20%.
15. The ink composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 further comprising at least one dispersant, or a combination of dispersants .
16. The ink composition of any one of claims 8 to 15 further comprising at
30 least one wetting agent.

- 34 -

17. The ink compositions according to any one of claims 8 to 16 further comprising an organic polymeric binder.
18. The ink composition of claim 17 wherein the organic polymeric binder is a polyacrylates or polyvinylpyrrolidone, (PVP) .
- 5 19. The ink composition of any one of claims 8 to 18 further comprising at least one UV-curable agent.
20. The ink composition according to claim 19 wherein the ink curable agent is selected from photo-polymerizable monomers and photo-polymerizable oligomers.
- 10 21. The ink according to claim 20 further comprising at least one of: photoinitiators, or photosensitizers.
22. The ink composition of claim 1 or 2 wherein the liquid vehicle is water-based.
23. The ink composition of claim 22 wherein the binding composition
15 comprises aqueous dispersion of silica nano-particles.
24. The ink composition of claim 23 further comprising an organic polymer.
25. The ink composition of claim 22 comprising at least one water soluble agent for decreasing the sintering temperature of the silica nanoparticles.
- 20 26. The ink composition of claim 25 wherein the sintering temperature is decreased to a temperature below 700°C.
27. The ink composition of claim 25 wherein the water soluble agent is selected from: Boron (B) containing agents, phosphates containing agents, bismuth containing agents, and sodium silicates containing agents, or
25 combinations of the above.
28. The ink composition of claim 27 wherein the water soluble agent is selected from: Boric acid, sodium Perborate, Sodium Tetraborate decahydrate and Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate.
29. The ink composition of claim 24 wherein the organic polymers are
30 water soluble or water dispersible organic polymers.

- 35 -

30. The ink composition of claim 29, wherein the organic polymer is selected from PVP (polyvinylpyrrolidone), acrylic colloidal dispersion, acrylic polymer emulsions, styrene-acrylic copolymer emulsion or combinations of the above.

5 31. The ink composition of claim 24 wherein the organic polymers are colloidal system.

32. An ink composition according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising at least one additive.

33. An ink composition according to claim 32 wherein the additive is
10 selected from: wetting agents, dispersing agents, defoamers, humectants, rheology control agents, organic polymers as binders and fixation agents, anticorrosive agents, coalescent agents, pH control agents and biocides.

34. An ink composition according to claim 33 wherein the organic polymers as binders and fixation agents are: polyacrylates or polyvinylpyrrolidone, (PVP).